Royal Villa of Monza

The **Royal Villa** (Italian: *Villa Reale*) is a historical building in Monza, northern Italy. It lies on the banks of the Lambro, surrounded by the large Monza Park, one of the largest enclosed parks in Europe.

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History

It was originally built by Giuseppe Piermarini between 1777[1] and 1780, when Lombardy was part of the Austrian Empire, for the Archduke Ferdinand of Austria.[2]

Following the establishment of the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy, the building was used as a Royal Palace and became home to the Viceroy of Italy, Eugène de Beauharnais. With the fall of the First Empire (1815), Austria annexed the Italian territories to the Kingdom of Lombardy-Venetia, Monza being included in the province of Milan.

Orangery of the villa

In 1861, when the new Kingdom of Italy was established, the building became a palace of the Italian Royal House of Savoy. The Royal Villa was abandoned by the royal family in 1900, after the murder of King Umberto I as he returned from an event.

Architecture

The palace complex includes the Cappella Reale, or the "Royal Chapel", the Cavallerizza (horse-shed), the Rotonda dell'Appiani, the Teatrino di Corte ("Small Court Theatre") and the Orangerie. The rooms at the first floor include grand salons and halls, and the Royal apartments of King Humbert I of Italy and of Queen Margherita of Savoy. In front of the palace are the Royal gardens, designed by Piermarini as English landscape gardens.

The building hosts temporary exhibitions, but lacked a long-term resident or use until July 23, 2011, when the palace complex housed offices from 4 ministries (Economy and Finance, Reforms, Simplifications, and Tourism).

Notes

1. "LA STORIA DELLA VILLA • Villa reale di Monza" (http://www.villarealedimonza.it/la-storia/).

2. "The History of the Villa Reale | Reggia di Monza" (http://www.reggiadimonza.it/en/content/pag
e/history-villa-reale). *www.reggiadimonza.it*.

External links

- Official web Site Royal Palace of Monza (http://www.reggiadimonza.it/en)